

A Dozen Things Teachers Can Do To Stop School Violence



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- ✓ Report to the principal as quickly as possible any threats, sign of or discussions of weapons, sign of gang activity, or other conditions that might invite or encourage violence.
- ✓ Set norms for behavior in your classroom. Refuse to permit violence. Ask students to help set penalties and enforce the rules.
- ✓ Invite parents to talk with you about their children's progress and any concerns they have. Send home notes celebrating children's achievements.
- ✓ Learn how to recognize the warning signs that a child might be headed for violence and know how to tap school resources to get appropriate help.
- ✓ Encourage and sponsor student-led anti-violence activities and programs ranging from peer education, teen courts, and mediation to mentoring and training.
- ✓ Offer to serve on a team or committee to develop and implement a Safe School Plan, including how teachers *and* other school staff should respond in emergencies.
- ✓ Enforce school policies that seek to reduce the risk of violence. Take responsibility for areas outside as well as inside your classroom.
- ✓ Insist that students not resort to name-calling or teasing. Encourage them to demonstrate the respect they expect. Involve them in developing standards of acceptable behavior.
- ✓ Teach with enthusiasm. Students engaged in work that is challenging, informative, and rewarding are less likely to get into trouble.

- ✓ Learn and teach conflict resolution and anger management skills. Help your students practice applying them in everyday life. Discuss them in the context of what you teach.
- ✓ *Incorporate* discussions on violence and its prevention into the subject matter you teach whenever possible.
- ✓ Encourage students to report crimes or activities that make them suspicious.

